

MOSAIC

Coming together, we form an icon of God's Kingdom

Vol. 9, No. 3

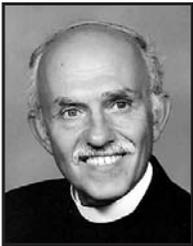
Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church 2501 S. Wolf Rd. Westchester, IL

June 2004

(708) 562-2744

www.holyapostleschurch.com

From Father Bill...



The Connecting Link

A prominent surgeon, who was a member of operating teams at both St. Francis Hospital and Christ Hospital in Chicago, would operate in the morning, and then field calls about his patients in the evening.

One night, his few dinner guests were shocked as the good doctor was on the phone talking to a resident at Christ Hospital, when the other phone rang. His wife answered, then whispered to her husband, "It's Saint Francis." The surgeon whispered back, "Tell St. Francis I'll have to call back. I'm talking to Christ."

Communication is vital for all of us today. Every Sunday as I look out at the congregation, I observe a familiar pattern unfolding. Most of the worshippers proceed to make their way to the same pew occupied in previous weeks. I suppose this particular decision underscores the belief that repetition strengthens our sense of self, and fosters a feeling of security and belonging. One thing is for certain, it greatly assists the priest to keep tabs on his congregation.

A basic need for everyone is to overcome the feeling of estrangement, that is, a feeling that one is left out or unwanted. If a person comes to church for Sunday worship and does not feel welcome, no matter how theologically correct the services are, he is not likely to return any time soon.

For those who attend the Orthros early in the morning, there is a sense of belonging, of family. When one is absent, there is concern that all is not well. To be a part of God's family is to see a connection, a relationship between ourselves and others. When such connections are not found in the church, people



Youth Sunday

Michael Maragos, left, and Michael Bitsas practice reading the Communion Prayer under the watchful eye and ear of Barbara Marlas before reciting it during the Liturgy on Youth Proclaim Christ Sunday.

seek them elsewhere.

John Steinbeck once called beauty parlor employees "the most influential members of a community." "When women go to the hairdresser," he explained, "something happens to them. They feel safe and relax. And they don't have to keep up any pretense. The hairdresser knows what their skin is like; he knows their age, and often the family. This being so, women tell a hairdresser things they dare confess to a priest..."

It seems that there is an increasing sense of alienation among people. Security systems are replacing concerned neighbors. The more isolated we feel, the more we seek out the 'invisible caretakers' of society, the hairdresser, the bartender or a favorite local merchant. We no longer feel free to share information with just anybody.

The church is supposed to be there for everyone. We need to bond more with the person with whom we exchange a holy kiss dur-

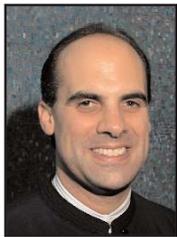
ing the Liturgy. We are all part of the body of Christ when we profess at our baptism, "Yes we are united with Christ..." That union is confirmed through the receiving of the Holy Spirit and sharing the common cup in the Eucharist. "It is good for us to live together in union", declares the psalmist, "for the Lord Himself prayed that His Disciples may be one."

The story is told of a pastor who wore a rose boutonniere on his lapel every Sunday, courtesy of one of his parishioners. One Sunday as he was leaving the service, a young boy approached him and said, "Sir, what are you going to do with that flower?" At first the pastor didn't know what he was talking about, but then he understood, saying: "Do you mean this?" as he pointed to the rose pinned on his coat.

The boy said, "Yes sir. I would like it if you are just going to throw it away."

...See Fr. Bill on P. 3

From Father Nicholas



Summer Vacations

As the weather gets warmer and summer approaches, some of us are preparing for vacation. Our children will be finished with school for the year and maybe we ourselves may be less busy in the summer. We are planning getaways and time to spend with loved ones and friends. Rarely does anyone get into a car or on a plane without preparing for the trip, because before anything great can be done, preparations must be made. The questions that a travel agent may ask could be beneficial to us in mapping out our plan for our relationship with God.

What is the first thing that is asked before we start planning the trip? Where are we going? What journey does God want us to take so that we can more fully discover His grace, strength and power? Where does God want us to go (with Him) during the summer time? If we don't have a plan for the summer, we will wander aimlessly. The summer or vacation time is a great opportunity to get to a place where we can hear from God. We can discover where He wants to take us. Maybe He wants to take us to a deeper place of understanding His great grace and love for us, to a place of better friendships and closer family ties, to a place of sacrifice and holiness, to a place of loving our enemies, to a place of developing self-control, or maybe to a place of developing integrity.

Once we know where we are going, the travel agent asks, "How are you going to get there?" Are we going to drive, take a bus, ride on the train or fly to our destination? How can we get to our spiritual destination this summer? By utilizing the *Daily Bible Guides* and spending just a few minutes a day reading the Word of God, the greatest roadmap for life, we will receive direction in our spiritual lives. If we traveled on vacation the way that we typically travel spiritually, we would never arrive.

Vacations give us time to be in solitude and prayer. We can hear God if we take a few minutes of each day to spend time with Him in prayer and to turn off the noise in our lives. Worship is another way to grow closer to God. By reliving and participating in the events and the death and resurrection of the Lord at each Liturgy that is celebrated, we can experience the strength that only God can give us. Communing with the Lord draws us closer

...See Fr. Nicholas on P. 3



Gavel to Gavel



By PETER POTERES... Parish Council Secretary

Parish Council meeting of Thursday, May 20

Present: Father Bill, Father Nicholas, George Alex, Don Alexander, John Anos, George Aravosis, James Banakis, George Chechopoulos, Terry Chiganos, Sandy Fiascone, Jim Fotopoulos, Nick Kirkeles, George Mannos Jr., Peter Poteres, and Peter Tomaras.

Finance

✦ Nick Kirkeles reviewed the April financial statement. For the month, the church was favorable \$44,023.32, primarily due to the strong Holy Week attendance. YTD the church is favorable \$84,616.88. Nick answered 2 questions from the last meeting: Easter offerings are shown as a separate line item in the budget, and the reason for the high payroll taxes was that they are paid on a quarterly frequency but were paid late for first quarter '04. Jim Fotopoulos moved to approve the financial statement. The motion passed unanimously. Peter Tomaras and Nick are reviewing our accounts at the Bank.

Stewardship

✦ George Mannos Jr. reported that as of April 30th, the church has received 748 pledges (up 12 from 2003) totaling \$536,268.50 (up \$49,716 from 2003) for an average pledge of \$716.94 (up \$54.77 per pledge from 2003). Amount paid YTD is \$359,757.48 (up \$33,344.23 from 2003).

Meditation

✦ An issue for deliberation at the Clergy Laity Conference will be the OCL and the new charter. There have been many discussions and rumors that may be misdirected. We need to be cautious on how the issue is handled. Educate yourself on the facts and learn them well and not be swayed by unsubstantiated rumors. The Church will continue to operate with or without a charter. People come for worship, prayer, burial, baptism, marriage, salvation, and for their children and not for a charter. The Church has moved along to accomplish these goals. On this day of Ascension, keep looking up and do not place blemishes on the Church, but praise the Church and beautify it.

Building And Grounds

✦ Jim Fotopoulos and George Alex reported on the following summer projects: parking lot bids have been requested for the work to be done mid-July. The church 2004 budget only called for the resurfacing of the north lot and entrance. The sugges-

tion of the committee is to do all the parking lot work at the same time to maximize savings. The bids will be finalized and presented to the Council at the June Parish Council meeting.

- ✦ Other projects being reviewed for the summer are: choir room renovation, storage room renovation, fire and burglar system finalized.
- ✦ George Alex stated that the phone system is under review and bids have been requested.

Ways And Means

- ✦ The H.A. Golf Outing will be July 19. The fee will be \$135. If pre-paid by June 27, the cost will be \$125.
- ✦ Church Picnic July 11. Publicity for the picnic has begun. George Alex has volunteered to supervise the games for the children and to purchase the prizes.

Old Business

- ✦ Clergy Laity conference will be the week of July 26 in New York City. Father Bill, Peter Tomaras, and Peter Poteres will represent the parish.
- ✦ Peter Tomaras reported that the robes for the choir have been purchased with private donations and support from the Philoptohos.
- ✦ In Dennis Poulos's absence, Peter Tomaras reported that the format for the Greek School will be changed. An increase per student has been approved and letters will be sent out to parents. An extra fee to charge non-stewards of the church for Greek School was discussed. Nick Kirkeles made a motion to not impose the extra fee. A majority approved the motion.

New Business

- ✦ A defibrillator has been donated to the church and will be available by June 30.
- ✦ Metropolitan Nikitas will be at the church on May 30. Peter Tomaras moved that a \$1,000 donation be made to the Metropolitan's mission. The motion passed unanimously.
- ✦ George Mannos Jr. reported that the Mother's Day Brunch raised \$5,222 that will go towards the multi-purpose room renovation. The brunch was Mike Cotsilis' idea with a lot of work provided by numerous people. George thanked everyone who made the event a success.
- ✦ Fr. Bill reminded everyone that the church's Feast Day will be celebrated June 29 and 30.

Fr. Bill from P. 1 **The Church is the connection**

The boy, who was probably less than 10 years old, looked up at the pastor and said, "Sir, I'm going to give it to my granny. My mother and father were divorced last year. I was living with my mother, but when she married again, she wanted me to live with him for a while. He said I could not, and I was sent to my grandmother. She is so good to me. She cooks for me and takes care of me. I want to give that pretty flower to her."

When the child finished his story, the pastor could hardly speak. His eyes welled up with tears, and he knew he had been deeply touched. He reached up and removed his flower, and said to the boy, "you can't have this flower because it is not enough. If you come with me to the front of the church you

will see a large bouquet of colorful flowers in front of the pulpit. Each week families bring these flowers to church to express their love to God and the service provided by the church. Please accept these flowers and give them to your faithful granny because she deserves the very best."

As if the pastor hadn't been touched enough, he heard the boy say, "What a wonderful day. I asked for one flower, but instead I received a beautiful bouquet."

When we receive someone in the name of Christ, it is a wonderful day. Not only is he blessed, but so are we. The Church provides the connecting link with God and together we form the family of Christ.

The **HARC** CORNER

Shop for your favorite graduate in HARC

Gender

by Frederica Mathewes-Green

Author, speaker, and NPR commentator, Frederica Mathewes-Green shares a collection of poignant essays. As a former feminist, she has a unique ability to hear 'the other side.' Rooted in the Orthodox Faith, she challenges contemporary issues concerning men, women, sex, and feminism.

Softbound \$16.00

Steps of Transformation

by Father Meletios Webber

A one-of-a-kind book on the subject of Alcoholics Anonymous and the various forms of addiction. Written by an Orthodox priest with a doctorate in counseling, the twelve steps to transformation are examined and correlated to Eastern theology. These steps can be incorporated into anyone's spiritual journey.

Softbound \$15.00

Thirsting for God in a Land of Shallow Wells

by Matthew Gallatin

This is an outstanding book approaching Orthodoxy from the Protestant per-

spective. All the challenges and defenses which Protestants profess, accusing the Orthodox faith as being ancient and irrelevant are dealt with from the author's lifelong search for the true faith. He incorporates the challenges into the Orthodox justification and response. Orthodox readers will appreciate their faith more deeply after reading this book.

Softbound \$15.00

False Gods Counterfit Spirituality in an Age of Anxiety. The Christian Answer to the New Age Movement.

by Michael Whelton

Michael Whelton, an Orthodox writer, examines the impact of the New Age movement on society and on the Christian faith. When surveys indicate that 28% of Orthodox Christians believe in astrology and 31% believe in reincarnation, it is obvious that this book is addressing a significant penetration of the occult among the Orthodox laity.

Softbound \$15.00

Reviewed by Pauline Franks

HOLY APOSTLES
Greek Orthodox Church

Forty-Fifth Anniversary
DINNER DANCE
"Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow"

Sunday, September 12, 2004
at
The Drury Lane Oakbrook

Reception 5:00pm Dinner 6:00pm
Donation: \$125 per person / \$90 (18 and under)

for more information or reservations, contact the Church Office or visit the reservation table in the multi-purpose room after Liturgy.

Fr. Nicholas from P. 2

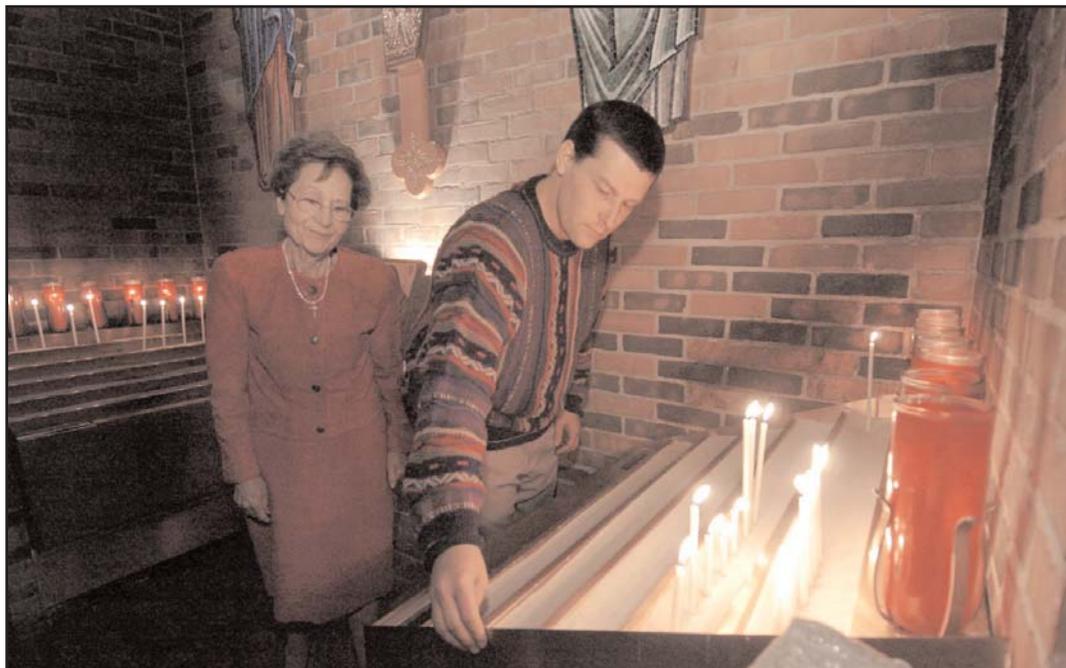
Don't take a vacation from God this summer

to Him.

All of us have probably experienced a few bumps in the road when we travel. Did you see the movie *Planes, Trains and Automobiles*? Every possible thing that could go wrong did go wrong as John Candy and Steve Martin tried to travel from New York City to Chicago. So, we can expect distractions. As the Gospel of Mark reminds us, "the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful."

Once we have determined where we are going and how we are going to get there, we have to figure out "What are we going to do?" Our family enjoys Disney World and each time that we arrive, the children's first question is, what are we going to do? We have so many options!

This summer we all have many options. Some of us will be out of our typical daily routine and may be traveling all summer. We may have an opportunity to slow down our lives and work a little less. Hopefully, we will have time to reflect on our lives and spend time with God in His Word, prayer and worship. Doing these things will help us arrive at our spiritual destination, which is a closer relationship with God. As you enjoy your travels and vacations, remember that God never goes on vacation. We are reminded at every Baptism as we read the Gospel of Matthew, "Lo, I am with you always, even to the ages of ages."



For years, Helen Meine cleaned the candle stands each week and got them ready for the following week's Liturgy. She has handed the duties over to her son Greg who continues to keep the candle stands spotless... literally.

A spirit of dedication keeps candle stands spotless

The hundreds, perhaps thousands, of candles placed in sand-filled bronze holders represent for many parishioners a few moments of silent worship before entering the Liturgy or other services at Holy Apostles. The candle stands mean a little more to Helen and Greg Meine. The mother and son team are the humble, generous souls who clean the stands every week. Helen has been taking on the chore for about five years. Her son, who began helping her two years ago, has taken over sole responsibility for the thankless task since April, when Helen "retired" after a fall. "To do something for the church is a blessing," Helen, 76, said when asked why she had taken on the messy, time-consuming effort. "And, the blessing comes back to us."

Greg, 36, has perhaps a more dramatic reason. "I've done my share of bad things in my life," said Greg, adding that he had abused drugs as a youth and ran afoul of the law. "I'm trying to do something to give back, if I can. It's not a lot, but it's something."

Their work typically takes place on Thursday or Friday morning, when Helen, and now Greg start by scraping the wax from the bronze stand, sometimes by using a heat gun. Afterwards, Greg pours all the sand through a screen lid on a bowl, which separates hardened, sand-covered wax from the sand. He then discards the sandy wax, replaces the cleaned sand, changes the extinguishing water in cups underneath the stand, and then scrapes and sweeps the floor. Greg completes the



Helen and Elaine Fotopoulos work together in HARC to keep the shelves well stocked with icons.

entire process in about two hours.

Helen said she used to take about five hours. "I don't take breaks," Greg said, chuckling. "My mom likes to talk with everybody who stops by church."

Cleaning the candle stands is just one of the ways Helen and Greg have served Holy Apostles. Helen taught fifth grade Sunday school for about 17 years, until 1986, and to this day, she works at the Holy Apostles Resource Center (HARC) ordering and organizing icons with Elaine Fotopoulos.

She and Greg, who live less than a mile from church, also help out in the kitchen

for a variety of events, including the holiday arts and crafts fair. "Any time something like that's going on in the church, we help out in the kitchen," said Greg, who also will set up tables and chairs and generally lend a hand for a number of other events at Holy Apostles. "We're always looking to help out," said Greg, who is hoping to enter the Orthodox Church Missionary Center's two-year program.

Editor's Note: If anyone else would like to help Greg out with this important job, it would be greatly appreciated.



Mothers honored before the Liturgy and during a special brunch

Preparing the brunch, above, are Nick Kirkeles, George Mannos, and Pete Poteres. At right, Staci Lampros pins a flower on her grandmother Anne Lampros.



Philoptohos could use your help

Holy Apostles Philoptohos is honored to host the Namesday Vesper Reception at our church following the evening Vesper Service on June 29. We would like to ask your help, by requesting a monetary donation or contribution of sweets. Please place your monetary donation in an envelope marked "Vesper Coffee" and drop it off at the church office. Your sweets may be brought to the church on June 27, 28, or 29. We thank you and look forward to this wonderful evening.

Keep your calendars marked for this year's Fashion Show, *It's In The Bag*, on October 2nd. Ticket sales will begin Sunday, August 22, following Liturgy.

The Philoptohos Board would like to express its sincere gratitude to our members and everyone who assisted us in completing another prosperous and gratifying year. We look forward to continued success in 2004-2005. Have a safe and blessed summer.

...by Cynthia Stathopoulos



Peter Kates is one of several kind-hearted parishioners who are helping to pitch in and take care of chores normally handled by Holy Apostles' custodian Wally Chase, who is ill.

June Registry

June & July Baptisms

Kalli, daughter of
Bridgette & Jerry Kyriazis
Sponsor: Stacy Nelson

Sarah, daughter of
Jennifer & Dr. Dean Govostis
Sponsors: Susan & Tom Kougis

Jake Michael, son of
Ann & Constantinos Dourdourekas
Sponsors: Cathy & Bill Rapp

July & August Weddings

Maria Karvelas & Jason Patrinos
Sponsor: Anthony Vandarakis

Dea Maria Mannos & Thomas Hughes
Sponsor: Steven Mannos

Katie Enyeart & Peter Magas
Sponsor: Paul Lekas

What's Happenin'
at Holy Apostles

Luncheon and Show at Drury Lane
Adult Christian Fellowship & Bible Study,
Thursday June 10 at 12pm at Drury Lane.
Luncheon and Show, *Fiddler on the Roof*
\$33.50. Please call Kay Bobis, (630) 512-0586,
if you would like to attend.

**Namesday
Vespers**
Holy Apostles'
Namesday
Vespers, will be
held Tuesday,
June 29.
Reception hosted
by Philoptohos

Graduates Sunday, June 13
Philoptohos will honor this year's graduates
by hosting the Graduates' Reception. Please
submit graduates' names to the church
office by Wednesday, June 9.

Golf Outing
The annual golf outing will be held
Monday, July 19 at Oak Meadows in
Elmhurst. Sign up in the multi-purpose
room after the Divine Liturgy beginning in
June. Cost is \$125-\$135.

Annual Church Picnic
The church's annual
picnic and Liturgy will be
held Sunday, July 11 at
Katherine Legge Park on
County Line Road in
Hinsdale. Liturgy at
10am. Free burgers for all,
and games and prizes for
the children.

Cemetery Plots
Chapel Hill Cemetery plots in the Garden
of the Ascension are available for purchase
through the church office at the price of
\$1250 each. See Liz Dörner.

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

<p>Questions to Ponder</p> <p>1. Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?</p> <p>2. Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?</p> <p>3. Which area of Palestine was very wealthy?</p> <p>... answers at end of the calendar</p>			1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship And Study Group			
		1	2	3	4	5
<p>8:00am Orthros</p> <p>9:15am Awaken To God</p> <p>9:30am Divine Liturgy</p> <p>Fellowship Hour</p>				12:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship Attends Play At Drury Lane Theater		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<p>GRADUATES SUNDAY</p> <p>8:00am Orthros</p> <p>9:15am Awaken To God</p> <p>9:30am Divine Liturgy</p> <p>Graduates' Reception</p>		Chicago Metropolis Byzantine School Of Music Graduation		7:30pm Parish Council Meeting		12:00pm Campers Return From Fanari Camp
2:00pm Campers Depart For Fanari	13	14	15	16	17	18
<p>FATHER'S DAY</p> <p>8:00am Orthros</p> <p>9:15am Awaken To God</p> <p>9:30am Divine Liturgy</p>	VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL					12:00pm Campers Return From Fanari Camp
2:00pm Campers Depart For Fanari Camp	20	21	22	23	24	25
<p>8:00am Orthros</p> <p>9:15am Awaken To God</p> <p>9:30am Divine Liturgy</p> <p>Fellowship Hour</p>		<p>FEAST DAY OF SS PETER & PAUL</p> <p>7:00pm Vespers for Holy Apostles</p>	<p>FEAST DAY OF HOLY APOSTLES</p> <p>8:00am Orthros</p> <p>9:00am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Answers</p> <p>1. Noah. He was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.</p> <p>2. Samson. He brought the house down.</p> <p>3. The area around Jordan. The banks were always overflowing.</p>		
27	28	29	30			



Seniors Social members recently visited Holy Apostles residents at the Greek American Nursing Home. Seated left to right are, Harry Pappas, resident Kostula Pilafas, resident Bertha Pavlou, Georgia Kontos, and Helen Bobis. Standing left to right are Katherine Pagonis, and Pauline Ross.

Memorials

*Vasiliki Lampropoulos
James Giannakopoulos
Emmanuel Theodorou
Yiorgios Theodorou
Spileo Paulopoulos
Efrosenis Skaftourou
Demetra Panagos
Constantine Panagos
Christopher Karambelas
Evelyn Siambanes
Thomas Kalyvas
Nicholas Anos*

Memorials

*Marcella Xanthopoulos
Brian Katsaros
Ernest P. Nassos*

Funeral

Evelyn Siambanes

Mosaic Deadline

The deadline for the August Mosaic is Tuesday, July 6.

Weekday Services

Feast Day of SS. Peter & Paul

Tuesday, June 29
7:00pm Vespers for Holy Apostles

Feast Day of Holy Apostles

Wednesday, June 30
8:00am Orthros
9:00am Divine Liturgy

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